

Gay V. Donovan

July 23, 1954 - February 5, 2025

Gay V. Donovan, age 70, of Cazenovia, passed away Wednesday, February 5, 2025, at Harvest Guest Home in Richland Center. She was born July 23, 1954, in Shawano, WI, the daughter of Russell and Leola (Rhode) Jones. On November 12, 1976 she married Dr. Joseph “Doc” Donovan in Milwaukee, WI. With hearts full of love and gratitude, we celebrate the life of Gay Donovan, a truly extraordinary woman whose kindness, warmth, and unwavering love touched everyone she met. She was a devoted wife, a nurturing mother, a cherished grandmother, and a friend to all.

Gay’s faith in Jesus was the foundation of her life. She loved the Lord with all her heart and lived each day knowing, with absolute certainty, that she would one day be in heaven. Her unwavering faith gave her strength, peace, and an incredible ability to see the good in every situation.

Everything she did was for her family. Her love for her husband, children, and grandchildren knew no bounds—she loved with her whole heart, always putting them first. No matter the situation, she found the good in it, meeting every challenge with a smile that could brighten even the darkest days. Her happiness was contagious, and her presence brought comfort, joy, and a sense of home to all who knew her. She always reminded her children of just how deeply they were loved, telling them often that she loved them all the way up to Jesus’ heart and back.

Gay was an incredibly talented woman—a beautiful singer whose voice could lift spirits, an artistic soul who poured love into her crafts, and a woman of remarkable strength. She adored making holidays special, ensuring that every moment with her family was filled with love, thoughtfulness, and warmth. She never forgot a birthday or an important moment, always making sure everyone knew just how much she cared.

She loved traveling, family vacations, and camping—any opportunity to spend time away with her loved ones. Those moments were some of her favorites, filled with laughter, adventure, and the simple joy of being together.

She took pride in always looking her best, a reflection of her vibrant spirit. Even in life's toughest moments, during hospital stays and surgeries, strangers and nurses alike would admire her beautifully manicured nails—a small but special part of her legacy that she passed down to her daughters and granddaughters.

Her love for babies was endless; if she could have had a thousand, she would have. When she was done having her own, she poured that same deep love into her grandchildren, treasuring every moment with them. She loved her stepchildren as if they were her own, never seeing them as anything less than her beloved children.

Her husband was her best friend and greatest love. The bond they shared was undeniable, a rare and beautiful connection that was evident to anyone who saw them together. Their love was an inspiration—a testament to the depth of devotion and partnership that many only dream of.

Above all, Gay had a gift for making people feel special. From the moment you met her, you felt welcomed, accepted, and truly loved. She never met a

stranger—only friends she hadn't yet made. Her kindness was effortless, her warmth genuine, and her love limitless.

Surrounded by the family she adored until her very last breath, she leaves behind a legacy of love, strength, and beauty. Though our hearts ache, we find comfort knowing she is now reunited with Jesus and the loved ones who went before her, waiting to welcome us with open arms one day.

She was love, she was light, and she was ours. And for that, we are forever grateful.

Survivors include her husband, Dr. Joseph "Doc" Donovan of Cazenovia; 12 children, Vickie Donovan, Joey Donovan, Scott (Sheri) Donovan, Steve Donovan, Jason (Jodi) Donovan, Tim (Carlene) Donovan, Dale (Samantha) Donovan, Jennifer Storkson (Todd Abing), Jackie Spencer (Rory Comins), Tommy Donovan (Jen McGuire), Stephanie (Chris) Mueller, Lucky (Brandon) Donovan-Fowell; 14 grandchildren, Scotty, Sammi, Lina, Hazel, Lily, Niah, Kyli, Kadi, Jordan, Anna, Wyatt, Brynlee, Alayna, and Colton; 3 great-grandchildren, Finn, Adley, and Cassian; 3 brothers, Russell (Myra) Jones, John (Elaine) Jones, Jack Jones; nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.

She was preceded in death by her parents; 2 sons, Timothy J. Donovan and Shawn Donovan; 2 sons-in-law, Dan Spencer and Jerimiah Storkson; and a sister, Sandra Rodriguez.

Funeral Service will be held on Monday, February 10, 2025, at 1:00 PM at the Clary Memorial Funeral Home in Richland Center. Visitation will be held on Monday from 10:00 AM until the time of service. Burial will follow in the Soules Creek Cemetery with Pastor Michael J. Breininger officiating. www.clarymemo

rialfuneralhome.com

Cemetery Details

Soules Creek Cemetery

26847 Cemetery Lane
Cazenovia, WI 53924

Previous Events

Visitation

FEB 10. 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM (CT)

Clary Memorial Funeral & Cremation Service, LLC
26777 Jelland Drive
Richland Center, WI 53581
(608) 647-6390
josh@clarymemorial.com
<https://clarymemorialfuneralhome.com/>

Funeral Service

FEB 10. 1:00 PM - 2:30 PM (CT)

Clary Memorial Funeral & Cremation Service, LLC
26777 Jelland Drive
Richland Center, WI 53581
(608) 647-6390
josh@clarymemorial.com
<https://clarymemorialfuneralhome.com/>

Tribute Wall

PC

“ You have my sympathy in your loss Dr. Joe and family. I didn't personally know Gay but always heard very good things about her.



Pat Clark - February 11, 2025 at 12:14 PM

LB

“ My deepest condolences to you and all your Families Dr. Joe. I have been friends for many years after they moved here, as he was my Vet on the farm when I farmed and raised beef cattle. She will be greatly missed by many who knew her. Thought's and prayers are with you all.

Lee & Janeen Barreau - February 09, 2025 at 03:45 PM

DW

“ My condolences to Dr Joe and his family.....my brother Vincent had a great admiration for the Donovan family. With kindness, Don Willis

Donald Willis - February 08, 2025 at 07:37 PM

HW

“ Hugs and love, Mary and Warren purchased the Florist Choice Bouquet for the family of Gay V. Donovan.



Hugs and love, Mary and Warren - February 08, 2025 at 09:42 AM

CB

“ Chris & Keely Bauer purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Gay V. Donovan.



Chris & Keely Bauer - February 07, 2025 at 08:18 PM

JS

“ Jane & Laura Snorek purchased the Strength & Solace Spray for the family of Gay V. Donovan.

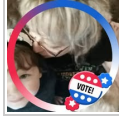


Jane & Laura Snorek - February 07, 2025 at 06:41 PM

JS

“ Gay was such a fun lady! And so talented! Laura and I most remember those GREAT 4th of July parties! We would bring fireworks and my mom would bring her barbecue and my dad would just bring his hysterical self! Gay would sing, so AMAZING! She had such a voice! It was seriously like being at a concert! I bet there were more than a 100 people at those parties! She was always a wonderful friend to my parents and to us. She MADE ME a beautiful picture frame for family pictures when my mom passed away, She was a very special person, just easy to like, nice and funny and warm and personable. We will miss her, very much. And we wish the family our sincerest sympathies for such a terrible loss. With Much Sympathy, Jane and Laura Snorek and our families.

jane snorek - February 07, 2025 at 06:29 PM



I knew Gay from Berryland way back in the 70's when a large group of us including Sandy, just kinda hung out. Goodbye my friend, rest in peace. My deepest sympathies to Doc & family.

*Michele Stalewski
(Missy Boyanz)*

Michele Stalewski - February 12, 2025 at 02:05 PM

KM

“ *Sympathy for the family of the lovely Gay Donovan. She will definitely be missed by all. Doc was by her side always and the comfort of each other's company was until the last! Take care!*

Kevin and Patti Machovec - February 06, 2025 at 08:23 PM

JF

“ *Joe and Marie Ladika & family purchased the Fair rest of All for the family of Gay V. Donovan.*



Joe and Marie Ladika & family - February 06, 2025 at 08:05 PM

MS

“ *Mike and Terri Seep purchased the Enchanted Cottage for the family of Gay V. Donovan.*



Mike and Terri Seep - February 06, 2025 at 07:04 PM

BS

“ *So so sorry to all for your loss*

Brenda Jerry stenli - February 06, 2025 at 06:20 PM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Gay V. Donovan.*



February 06, 2025 at 06:00 PM



“ *Dan Futch and Susan Young purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Gay V. Donovan.*



Dan Futch and Susan Young - February 06, 2025 at 03:36 PM